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               IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
             FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
 2.
     UNITED STATES of AMERICA, : 2:15-mj-00417-1
                   Plaintiff,
 3
                                  : PHILADELPHIA, PA
               VS.
     KEONNA THOMAS, A/K/A "FATAYAT:
      AL KHILAFAH, " A/K/A
 5
      "YOUNGLIONESS"
                                      April 9, 2015
                     Defendant. : 1:23 p.m.
6
               TRANSCRIPT OF PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING
              BEFORE THE HONORABLE MARILYN HEFFLEY
 7
                  UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
    APPEARANCES:
    For the Plaintiff: JENNIFER A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
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    TRANSCRIBER:
                         JANINE THOMAS
21
                         NOTARY PUBLIC
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      COLLOQUY
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      WITNESS: MARTIN MCDONALD
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       Direct Examination by Ms. Williams
                                                      3
       Cross-Examination by Mr. McHugh
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       Redirect Examination by Ms. Williams
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       Recross-Examination by Mr. McHugh
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                 DEPUTY CLERK: Court is now in session.
                                                           The
 2
     Honorable Marilyn Heffley presiding.
 3
                 THE COURT: Good afternoon, everyone.
                 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
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                 THE COURT: Please be seated. The first case
    before this court is the United States of America versus
6
 7
    Keonna Thomas, A/K/A "Fatayat Al Khilafah," A/K/A "The Young
     Lioness" Docket Number 15-417m. The case is scheduled for a
8
    preliminary examination.
9
                 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon Your Honor.
10
     Jennifer Williams, for the United States and with me at
11
12
     counsel table is FBI Special Agent Martin McDonald. We are
     here for both preliminary examination and a detention hearing,
13
     Your Honor. And if the Court would like, I can proceed with
14
15
     the preliminary examination, now.
16
                 THE COURT: Yes, please proceed, Ms. Williams.
17
                 MS. WILLIAMS: Then Your Honor, I call to the
18
     stand FBI Special Agent, Martin McDonald.
19
                 DEPUTY CLERK: Can you raise your right hand?
20
21
                           (MARTIN MCDONALD - SWORN)
22
23
                 DEPUTY CLERK: Please state your full name.
24
     Spell your last name for the record.
25
                 THE WITNESS: Martin McDonald, M-C-D-O-N-A-L-D.
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- 1 DEPUTY CLERK: Thank you.
- 2 BY MS. WILLIAMS:
- 3 Q. Good afternoon Agent.
- 4 A. Good afternoon.
- 5 Q. Did you prepare the affidavit in support of the
- 6 complaint and the arrest warrant of Keonna Thomas?
- 7 A. Yes, I did.
- 8 Q. And do you have a copy of it in front of you?
- 9 A. Yes, I do.
- 10 Q. Did you swear to its truth on April 3, 2015?
- 11 A. Yes, I did.
- 12 Q. And was it true and correct at the time?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Is it true and correct as you sit here today?
- 15 A. Yes, it is.
- 16 Q. Do you have any corrections, additions, or changes to
- 17 the affidavit?
- 18 A. I do not.
- 19 Q. And then do you adopt the affidavit as your testimony
- 20 here today?
- 21 A. Yes, I do.
- MS. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, then I move for the
- 23 admission of the affidavit for purposes of the probable cause
- 24 hearing today.
- THE COURT: It's granted. Thank you.

Page 5 1 MS. WILLIAMS: I have no further questions. 2 Thank you. 3 THE COURT: Mr. McHugh. MR. MCHUGH: May I, Your Honor? 5 THE COURT: Yes. 6 CROSS-EXAMINATION 8 9 BY MR. MCHUGH: 10 Agent McDonald, I'm going to be referring to the 11 paragraphs in the complaint, so in paragraph two, would you 12 agree with me that the charge that is set forth in this complaint is an attempt charge? 13 Yes, it is. 14 Α. Okay. And it's an attempt to provide material support 15 to ISIL; is that correct? 16 17 Α. Yes, sir. Okay. And a number of the paragraphs in the complaint 18 0. 19 talk about Twitter postings; is that right? Yes, sir. 20 Α. 21 Okay. And you indicate in there that Ms. Thomas posted Q. 22 those Tweets; is that right? Yes, sir. 23 Α. 24 And how were you able to determine that it was her that Q. 25 was posting? And I'm going to ask you about reposting in a

- 1 minute.
- 2 A. Sure.
- 3 Q. But, talking about just the paragraphs that deal with
- 4 posting?
- 5 A. How do we know it was her?
- 6 Q. Yes. How did you determine based in your affidavit
- 7 that it was her that was making these posts?
- 8 A. Sure. Well, basically, through a grand jury subpoenas,
- 9 Your Honor, and other investigative tools, we were able to
- 10 clearly establish that these online monikers resolve back to
- 11 Keonna Thomas.
- 12 Q. And by that what do you mean? Are your -- you found an
- address that was signed up by her or what did you find?
- 14 A. Sometimes we did. The grand jury subpoena returns, the
- 15 results show that the online monikers resolve back to Ms.
- 16 Thomas' known unique IP address, Your Honor. I believe it was
- 17 71.23.230.0. In addition, sometimes these online monikers
- 18 resolve back into addition to the IP address to known e-mails
- 19 owned and operated and utilized by Keonna Thomas.
- 20 Q. All right. So, you found an IP address that was
- 21 registered to her?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And that's where the tweets were coming from?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Okay. And then you said that there was also an e-mail

- 1 account?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And what was that? That was registered to her in her
- 4 name?
- 5 A. There were several, though the primary one was a, it
- 6 was a, the name of the e-mail was Amujahiri84@Gmail.com[ph],
- 7 that was the primary one. There was other facilities. We all
- 8 managed to trace all the facilities back to Keonna Thomas one
- 9 way or another.
- 10 Q. And by tracing it back to her, specifically, what
- 11 you're saying is the IP account?
- 12 A. The IP address, sir. Yes, sir.
- 13 Q. Okay. Now moving onto the -- what -- there's a number
- of paragraphs in the complaint talking about repostings?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Are you familiar with that?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Can you tell us what you meant by repostings?
- 19 A. Repost, Your Honor, would basically be if you said
- 20 something on Twitter and I agreed with what you said or I
- 21 would repost what you said. So, it's called a repost.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 A. So, you weren't the original poster of it, you just
- 24 repost it.
- 25 Q. Okay. And so that is not something that Ms. Thomas

- 1 drafted other wrote; is that correct?
- 2 A. The original, no.
- 3 Q. Right. It would be something that she clicked on a
- 4 button and it just reposted on her Twitter account?
- 5 A. Well, yeah. You agree or you second that motion, so to
- 6 speak, or something you agree with, yeah. You would click on
- 7 a button and show that you Retweeted it.
- 8 Q. And how about -- again, the same question as far as the
- 9 postings and reposting, how did you trace back the repostings
- 10 to Keonna Thomas?
- 11 A. When you do that it's the same thing. Her -- Keonna
- 12 Thomas' Twitter handle would come up and you can see that she
- 13 Retweeted it, same thing.
- 14 Q. Okay. All right. Now, would you agree with me that
- 15 throughout the complaint there's a discussion of electronic
- 16 communications with three different individuals that are
- 17 described as coconspirators?
- 18 A. Yes, sir.
- 19 Q. Is that right?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. I want to talk to you about the, the first one
- 22 which you've described or in your complaint that's described
- 23 as Coconspirator Number One.
- 24 A. Okay.
- 25 Q. You're familiar with that; is that right?

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- 2 Q. Okay. Now, these communications in the complaint are
- 3 outlined in Paragraphs 11 through 13; is that right?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. Okay. And those communications all occurred in
- 6 December 2013?
- 7 A. Yes, sir.
- 8 Q. Okay. And in your complaint you indicate that ISIL was
- 9 not designated as a terrorist organization until May 2014; is
- 10 that right?
- 11 A. I think -- the short answer is yes, but I think there
- was a, basically a transgression of it when it turned from
- 13 al-Qaeda and Iraq to Finally ISIS/ISIL. So, in the same
- organization was still bandaged, didn't have the name yet.
- 15 Q. Okay. But the charge here is concerning attempt to
- 16 provide support to ISIS; is that right?
- 17 A. No. Yeah, sure. Sure, [indiscernible].
- 18 Q. And in your complaint, you indicate that ISIL wasn't
- 19 the -- the Secretary of State amended the AQI designation in
- 20 May 2014 to include ISIL; is that right?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So, the communications with CC Number One,
- 23 Coconspirator Number One, all occurred before that amendment
- 24 was made; is that?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

- 1 Q. Okay. And the person that you've described as
- 2 Coconspirator Number One, you did not allege in your complaint
- 3 that that person was associated with ISIS, did you or ISIL?
- 4 A. He was not. He was associated with different terrorist
- 5 organizations.
- 6 Q. Okay. So, in addition to it occurring in December
- 7 2013, this person was not an author -- a member of ISIL as far
- 8 as you knew?
- 9 A. No, sir.
- 10 Q. And that's why you didn't aver that in your complaint?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. Is that right? Okay. And in her -- in the
- 13 communications that you attribute to Ms. Thomas, there's no
- 14 statements by her and I'm confining my questions to
- 15 Coconspirator Number One. There's no statements by her of
- 16 wanting to join ISIL; is there?
- 17 A. No, sir.
- 18 Q. Okay. And in fact after December 2013, based on your
- 19 affidavit there's no further contacts with that Coconspirator
- 20 Number One; is that right?
- 21 A. I'm sorry, can you repeat that question, sir?
- 22 Q. After December 2013, there's no further contacts with
- 23 that person identified as Coconspirator Number One?
- 24 A. Not on this affidavit, sir.
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. And if I could go back, you said in reference to the,
- 2 if I can, Your Honor --
- 3 THE COURT: Yes, you may.
- 4 THE WITNESS: -- go back to the previous
- 5 question. About the, the wanting to join ISIS or ISIL, I draw
- 6 your attention to Paragraph 12 where she speaks of leaving the
- 7 land of the Kafir or the nonbelievers. When we read that, we
- 8 interpreted that as her intent to leave to join a terrorist
- 9 organization overseas.
- 10 BY MR. MCHUGH:
- 11 Q. A terrorist -- so, leaving the -- you interpreted
- 12 leaving the land of nonbelievers to mean, joining a terrorist
- 13 organization overseas?
- 14 A. Yes, sir. At that time I believed it was either going
- 15 to be Al Shabab or ISIS or ISIL.
- 16 Q. All right. But, nowhere in there can we agree, does
- 17 the person who you're identifying as Ms. Thomas, mention Al
- 18 Shabaz.
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- 20 O. ISIL.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Or ISIS.
- 23 A. Correct.
- 24 Q. Okay. All right. Moving onto Coconspirator Number
- 25 Two, that person you identified as a known ISIS fighter; is

- 1 that right? And I'm referring now to Paragraph 25 of your
- 2 complaint?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 Q. All right. And how did you make that determination?
- 5 A. How did we know he was a, a fighter in ISIS?
- 6 Q. Yeah. You described, you averred that a known overseas
- 7 ISIL Fighter, CC Number Two --
- 8 A. Yeah --
- 9 Q. How did you make that averment?
- 10 A. Well, in part, because he said that he was going
- 11 through a training camp -- I'm not looking at the affidavit
- data right now, I just, from memorization know at a point that
- 13 he was telling her that he was going through a training camp
- 14 and that he was based in Rocca, Syria.
- So, a training camp to me being in Syria, Your Honor, I
- 16 believe it was a terrorist training company.
- 17 Q. So, you based it solely on his -- this person's
- 18 allegations in the electronic communications?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And those communications simply stated that they were
- 21 in a training camp?
- 22 A. Yes. That was one of them; yes.
- 23 Q. Okay. Did you ever verify that this person was
- 24 actually in a training camp?
- 25 A. I don't know if we ever discussed that at this time.

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Page 13
                 MS. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, may I approach
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 2
     sidebar with defense counsel for a moment?
 3
                 THE COURT: Yes.
 5
                                    (Pause)
6
 7
    BY MR. MCHUGH:
           As to Coconspirator Number Two, the contacts that you
8
     attribute to Ms. Thomas with this person occurred, essentially
 9
    on two days; is that right? On December 2, 2014 and February
10
11
     17, 2015; is that fair to say?
                 MS. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, may I just seek
12
     clarification as defense counsel in this and all questions
13
     referring solely to the communications in the affidavit --
14
15
                 MR. MCHUGH: Yes.
                 MS. WILLIAMS: -- or all communications about
16
17
    which the witness is aware?
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                 MR. MCHUGH: Obviously, Your Honor, it's a
19
    probable cause hearing. I'm limited my examination to this --
20
    to the affidavit.
21
                 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
22
                 MR. MCHUGH: As was brought out on direct. I --
     and I'm sorry if that wasn't clear.
23
24
                 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry can you ask that again?
25
    BY MR. MCHUGH:
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- 1 Q. Okay. So, looking at -- we're talking about
- 2 Coconspirator Number Two. Would you agree with me that the
- 3 contacts that are contained in the affidavit occurred on a
- 4 two-day period?
- 5 A. What paragraphs are you referring, sir? So, I can
- 6 find --
- 7 Q. Paragraphs 23 to 27, I'm sorry, 25 to 27 and Paragraphs
- 8 33 to 34.
- 9 A. This affidavit, yes, sir.
- 10 Q. Okay. And so the two dates are December 2, 2014; is
- 11 that right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And February 17, 2015.
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. All right. Let's talk about December 2, 2014, the
- 16 first date. Would you agree with me that in the affidavit the
- 17 CC Number Two initiated the contact with who you allege was
- 18 Ms. Thomas; is that right?
- 19 A. I don't recall, Your Honor, on this if it was the
- 20 coconspirator that initiated the conversation or it was Keonna
- 21 Thomas; I don't know, I don't recall at this moment.
- 22 Q. Well, the first paragraph that talks about CC Number
- 23 Two is Paragraph 25; is that right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. In the very first sentence it says, "ISIL Fighter CC

- 1 Number Two, sent an electronic communication to Keonna
- 2 Thomas." Did you see that?
- 3 A. Right. Right. In reference -- I see what you're
- 4 saying in reference to this specific conversation, yes.
- 5 You're correct.
- 6 Q. All right. And this is the affidavit that we had
- 7 before --
- 8 A. Yeah. Yeah. You're correct.
- 9 Q. Okay. So, would you agree with me that in your
- 10 affidavit CC Number Two initiated the contact?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And when you describe an electronic communication, are
- 13 you talking about an e-mail there or are you talking about
- 14 something else?
- 15 A. In number 25 it was a Twitter message.
- 16 Q. Okay. And would you also agree with me that looking at
- 17 the conversations that the electronic communications that you
- described between paragraph 25 and 27, there's no mention by
- 19 Ms. Thomas of joining ISIL; is that correct?
- 20 A. No, sir.
- 21 Q. That is correct; right?
- 22 A. You're correct.
- 23 Q. Okay. Now let's look at the second conversation and
- last conversation with CC Number Two or communication, I'll be
- 25 more specific that occurred in February 17, 2015. And that's

- 1 between Paragraphs 33 and 34; did you see that, sir?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. All right. Would you agree with me there that again,
- 4 CC Number Two initiated the conversations with who you allege
- 5 was Ms. Thomas?
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 Q. Okay. And would you agree with me there, again, that
- 8 there's no mention by Ms. Thomas of her joining ISIL?
- 9 A. I think that's a distortion of the truth, Your Honor.
- 10 I think when she replies that she would -- it be amazing
- 11 that -- if I take in a martyr and operation, I, I don't think
- one would respond to that it wasn't your intention to join
- 13 ISIS, so I would disagree.
- 14 Q. All right. But that was in response to something that
- 15 CC Number Two had stated; isn't that right?
- 16 A. Oh it was a response to his question; yeah. She has,
- 17 he asked if she wanted to partake in a martyr and operation
- 18 and she responded, that would be amazing. So, yes, it was in
- 19 response.
- 20 Q. All right. But there's no mention there about ISIL in
- 21 any way; is there?
- 22 A. No, sir.
- 23 Q. All right. And at least in this affidavit the final
- 24 communication with CC Number Two which is in Paragraph 34 is
- 25 CC Number Two states, "I can make that wish come true."

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- 2 Q. And I don't see any response in there from the person
- 3 who you allege was Ms. Thomas; is that right?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 Q. All right. Moving on to CC Number Three, the last
- 6 person who you described in this affidavit with
- 7 communications. Would you agree with me that that starts on
- 8 Paragraph 29 of your affidavit?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. Okay. And here again, there's no allegation in your
- 11 affidavit just like CC Number One that this person is a member
- 12 of ISIL; is that right?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- 14 Q. Okay. And that's because you had no information that
- this person was a member of ISIL?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. All right. And would you agree with me that this --
- 18 the communications with CC Number Three takes place over the
- 19 course of two days; is that right? And I'm referring you
- 20 specific to Paragraph 29 and 31.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. All right. And those dates are January 30, 2015?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- 24 Q. And February 14, 2015?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

- 1 Q. Okay. And let's talk about January 30, 2015. You see
- 2 that, sir?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 Q. And there again, would you agree with me that there's
- 5 no mention by Ms. Thomas of her wanting to join ISIL?
- 6 A. Again -- again, sir, I think that's a little bit of
- 7 distortion the way I took it as, when her response is "As of
- 8 now I'm still here, but I would be leaving the state soon,"
- 9 her impending travel to join ISIS, but the word ISIS are not
- 10 mentioned in this paragraph, sir, you are correct.
- 11 She does not say she wants to join ISIS in this
- 12 paragraph, so you are correct.
- 13 Q. Okay. And when she says, "I will, leaving the state
- soon," she doesn't even say where she's leaving to go; is that
- 15 right?
- 16 A. She doesn't say that, no.
- 17 Q. Okay. And so, then let's look at Paragraph 31 which is
- 18 the second description of the second and last communication
- 19 with Number Three and that's on February 14th; is that right?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. And would you agree with me there, in that conversation
- 22 that there's no mention by who you allege was Ms. Thomas
- 23 wanting to join ISIS, ISIL?
- 24 A. Again, in Paragraph 31 she informs that particular
- 25 coconspirator, "Deactivated my Twitter until I leave for

- 1 Sham." Sham is greater Syria.
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. Again, it goes along that theme, ISIS is located in
- 4 Syria and Iraq, at that time Sham to me was Syria. ISIS is in
- 5 Syria. I took that, Your Honor, as she was traveling to Syria
- 6 to join ISIS.
- 7 Q. So, it was your assumption that if someone's traveling
- 8 to Syria then they're traveling to join ISIL?
- 9 A. Based on the nature, content, and consistency of the
- 10 content of her previous communications, absolutely.
- 11 Q. Okay. But you would agree with me in that paragraph
- 12 there's no mention of ISIL?
- 13 A. Yes, sir. You're correct.
- 14 Q. Okay. Now, in Paragraph 32 she talks, alleges to talk
- to CC Number Three about communicating with CC Number Two
- 16 regarding routes and travel plans; do you see that?
- 17 A. Yes, sir.
- 18 Q. In your investigation did you find anything that
- 19 verified communications with CC Number Two concerning routes
- 20 or travel plans?
- 21 A. Yes, I did, sir.
- 22 Q. And is that in the affidavit?
- 23 A. That is not in the affidavit.
- 24 Q. All right. So, you left that out?
- 25 A. It's not in this affidavit.

- 1 Q. Okay. The -- looking at Paragraph 30, we talk about
- 2 her application for a passport?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 Q. All right. That was done here in Philadelphia; is that
- 5 right?
- 6 A. I believe so. I believe the --
- 7 Q. You're not sure?
- 8 A. Yeah. I, I saw the passport application. I saw the
- 9 passport; I believe so, but yes, I believe it was processed
- 10 here.
- 11 Q. All right. Well, when you say saw the passport and you
- 12 saw the application, that's all you saw?
- MS. WILLIAMS: Object, Your Honor, to the
- 14 question.
- 15 BY MR. MCHUGH:
- 16 Q. Did you do any further investigation as to where this
- was submitted, this application?
- 18 A. I, I did, Your Honor. We have a task force officer
- 19 assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force from the Department
- 20 of State Homeland Security. He verified that she did apply
- 21 for a passport. I thought your question was did I actually
- 22 see anything processed in Philadelphia; the answer is no. I
- 23 received word that it was.
- 24 Q. All right.
- 25 A. But it was based on someone else's --

- 1 Q. It's just a probable cause hearing. So, what you're
- 2 information was was that she applied for this passport in
- 3 Philadelphia; is that right?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And she used her correct name; is that right?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Keonna Thomas?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Correct date of birth?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Correct address?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. And looking at Paragraph 36, talks about the
- 14 application for a visa is; that right?
- 15 A. I'll get there in a second for you.
- 16 Q. Yeah, take your time.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. Now, this information that you swore to, how did
- 19 you come upon this? Did you do this investigation or was this
- 20 something that was told to you?
- 21 A. The e-Visa -- there was a search warrant, Your Honor
- 22 that was served. The federal -- from the search warrant that
- 23 was served at the defendant's house the day of -- 802 North
- 24 10th Street on March 27th. As a result of that search warrant
- 25 the defendant Keonna Thomas had a cell phone in her pocket

- 1 when we went to the house.
- 2 A cell phone, I witnessed it -- it being taken off her
- 3 person. That cell phone was confiscated, submitted to our
- 4 forensic computer laboratory. The result of that analysis
- 5 showed on the phone that the Turkish Government sent Keonna on
- 6 her phone an e-mail saying, basically thank you for applying
- 7 for a visa to Turkey and said that [indiscernible] Keonna
- 8 Thomas, so, that is why I know that.
- 9 And it said the date of the application was the 23rd
- 10 and I believe the visa was good for, I think from March 25th
- 11 to September 20, 2015.
- 12 Q. Okay. And so, that was in her correct name; is that
- 13 right?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. Correct date of birth?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Correct address?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And, in fact you said you read it from an e-mail at
- 20 her -- on her phone; is that right?
- 21 A. Yeah -- that's what it was from, how I read it was
- 22 through a computer written analysis, but it was an e-mail on
- 23 her phone; correct.
- Q. Okay. So, obviously correct e-mail too; is that right?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. If it was received. Now, Paragraph 35, you discuss
- 2 there that Ms. Thomas conducted online research into various
- 3 indirect travel routes to Turkey, how did you come across that
- 4 fact?
- 5 A. Again, part of that search warrant, Your Honor, on
- 6 March 27th, we removed a computer from Keonna Thomas' house
- 7 from inside Keonna Thomas' bedroom, from under Keonna Thomas'
- 8 bed and when we looked at the hard drive through a computer
- 9 forensic analysis it showed different searches that she's
- 10 done. Some of those searches were travel from Barcelona to
- 11 Istanbul.
- 12 Q. All right. So these were websites that the browser
- 13 appeared to have gone to?
- 14 A. Yeah, yeah they were searches, I mean to be specific
- 15 about it, I'm not sure at this time, but --
- 16 Q. In other words typed in words?
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. Okay. And do you recall what dates these searches were
- 19 done?
- 20 A. I do not.
- 21 Q. All right. There's no mention of the dates in here, so
- 22 you don't recall?
- 23 A. No. I don't recall, sir.
- Q. Okay. And so this was on a laptop not a phone?
- 25 A. It was a laptop, sir; correct.

- 1 Q. Okay. So, you don't know who actually typed in these
- 2 searches; is that fair to say.
- 3 A. Well, again, based on, it was -- so, based that it was
- 4 a, you know, the defendant's house, the defendant's bedroom,
- 5 under the defendant's bed, when you opened up the laptop it
- 6 actually said Fatayat Al Khilafah. The computer was named
- 7 Fatayat Al Khilafah --
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. -- which is obviously one of Keonna's aliases, so I
- 10 mean, I -- the reason I -- person to believe it was her.
- 11 Q. All right. But there was a number of other people
- 12 living there; is that right?
- 13 A. There was.
- 14 Q. Okay. The same question with Paragraph 38, you talked
- about online research for buses to Barcelona to Istanbul; do
- 16 you see that?
- 17 A. Yes, sir.
- 18 Q. Again, there's no dates there. Do you know when those
- 19 searches were performed?
- 20 A. I do not. Offhand I do not, sir.
- 21 Q. Okay. And do you know how they were done? Was it
- 22 typing --
- MS. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, I'm just going to
- object and point out to Mr. McHugh that in both Paragraphs 35
- 25 and 38 there are dates in the affidavit and I would just ask

- 1 the witness to also follow along in the affidavit.
- 2 Mr. MCHUGH: That's fine.
- 3 THE WITNESS: That's my mistake, sir. Your --
- 4 it's -- there are dates and I was listening to you.
- 5 BY MR. MCHUGH:
- 6 Q. Okay. So, the dates that are on here are the dates
- 7 that you determine were the dates that the searches were made?
- 8 A. Yeah, there were dates, yeah. The forensic analysis
- 9 saw the searches.
- 10 Q. Okay. All right. So the first one just talks about
- 11 February and March; is that right? The Paragraph 35.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. So, you were unable to be specific as to when
- 14 those searches occurred?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Now, in Paragraph 39, it talks about a purchasing of
- 17 airline tickets; do you see that?
- 18 A. Yes, sir.
- 19 Q. Okay. And how did you determine that she had purchased
- 20 airline tickets?
- 21 A. Your Honor, on the morning of March 27, I received a
- 22 phone call from a special agent from Homeland Security
- 23 Investigations who was also a joint member on our task force.
- 24 He informed me that Keonna purchased a ticket and the flight
- 25 was due to leave March 29th.

- 1 Q. So, it was based on what was told to you?
- 2 A. At 6:30 in the morning, it was. And then once I got to
- 3 the office I saw the hard copy printout and --
- 4 Q. You actually saw the ticket?
- 5 A. -- it was verified, yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. And again, correct name?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Correct date of birth?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Correct address?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Okay. The plane was due to leave at what time or what
- 13 date?
- 14 A. The -- the 20 -- March 29th at 6:55 p.m. It was a US
- 15 Airways flight, I don't recall the flight number, but I know
- 16 it was to Barcelona.
- 17 Q. Okay. And you were monitoring Ms. Thomas' movements at
- 18 that time? You or a part of your task force?
- 19 A. Yeah, to an extent, yes. As far as flying or
- 20 traveling, yes.
- 21 Q. So, you weren't watching her every move outside of her
- 22 house?
- 23 A. No, sir.
- Q. Okay. Well, did you come across any information that
- 25 she attempted to go to the airport that day?

- 1 A. She did not go to the airport March 29th that I know
- 2 of.
- 3 Q. Okay. The -- you talk about an ISIS manual in
- 4 Paragraph 37; did you see that? ISIL, I'm sorry.
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- 6 Q. Okay. That manual, did you -- when you executed the
- 7 search warrant at her house, did you recover that manual?
- 8 A. I did not.
- 9 Q. Okay. You searched all her electronic equipment?
- 10 A. We did.
- 11 Q. And any information that that manual was on?
- 12 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 13 Q. Do you have any knowledge that she was ever in
- 14 possession of this manual?
- 15 A. I do not, sir.
- 16 Q. Okay. So, if she, you don't have any knowledge she was
- in possession of it then you don't have any knowledge that she
- 18 would've reviewed it or been familiar with what was stated
- 19 inside; is that fair to say?
- 20 A. I would say no, because I think with this Paragraph 37,
- 21 is basically, it's -- it's almost common knowledge, Your
- 22 Honor, within the online Jihadi community and the
- 23 counterterrorism circles that this is how it works; that this
- 24 information is out there. This manual was basically with
- 25 ISIS -- put -- was already known out there and put it down on

- 1 paper. These concepts, these facts were already known. So --
- 2 Q. Well, your --
- 3 A. -- I would say it's not reasonable to believe that she
- 4 didn't know this.
- 5 Q. But you had no evidence and your thorough search of her
- 6 house and her electronic stuff, her computers that this manual
- 7 was ever read or in her possession; is that fair to say?
- 8 A. That's fair to say. This specific manual; no, sir.
- 9 You're correct.
- 10 Q. Okay. And where was she arrested?
- 11 A. At her house.
- 12 Q. Okay. And where is that?
- 13 A. 802 North 10th Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 14 19123.
- 15 Q. Okay. And what time of day was that?
- 16 A. It was in the morning between 9:00 and 10:00, Your
- 17 Honor, I believe.
- 18 Q. Okay. And the search -- you executed the search
- 19 warrant about a week before or a few --
- 20 A. We did the previous Friday.
- 21 Q. Okay. Between the execution of the search -- was she
- 22 home at the time of the search warrant?
- 23 A. She was.
- 24 Q. Okay. Same address?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

- 1 Q. Okay. Between the time of the execution of the search
- 2 warrant and when you arrested her, you were not aware of any
- 3 attempt by her to flee or leave the city in any way?
- 4 A. No, sir, I was not.
- 5 Q. As far as you're aware, she went about her normal
- 6 business?
- 7 A. As far as I know.
- 8 Q. Taking her kids to school?
- 9 A. I don't know. I don't think she took her kids to
- 10 school, because I think it was, I think there was like a
- 11 holiday break.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. So, at that point and time --
- 14 Q. But you're not aware of any attempt to flee between
- 15 you, the federal agency executing a search warrant at her
- 16 house and a week later she's not in custody; right for that
- 17 week?
- 18 A. No. Right.
- 19 Q. And the time of the arrest?
- 20 A. Yeah, yes, you're correct, sir. I have no
- 21 indication --
- 22 Q. And when you arrested her there was no incident? She
- 23 was arrested without --
- MS. WILLIAMS: Objection, Your Honor. This goes
- 25 way beyond probable cause.

- 1 THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to sustain the
- 2 objection.
- 3 MR. MCHUGH: That's all I have, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. McHugh. Ms.
- 5 Williams, any redirect?
- 6 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor.
- 7 - -
- 8 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 9 - -
- 10 BY MS. WILLIAMS
- 11 Q. Agent, you testified that a search warrant was executed
- 12 at Ms. Thomas' house on March 27; is that correct?
- 13 A. Yes, it was.
- 14 Q. And that a laptop was seized?
- 15 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 16 Q. And where was that laptop is seized from?
- 17 A. It was in the defendant's house, Your Honor, in the
- defendant's bedroom in that house under the defendant's bed in
- 19 the house.
- 20 Q. And who else stayed in the defendant's bedroom with
- 21 her?
- 22 A. It was herself and I think there was two, like two
- 23 small kids. Two, two younger children.
- 24 Q. Okay. What was the user name on the laptop again?
- 25 A. Fatayat Al Khilafah.

- 1 Q. And what was Ms. Thomas' Twitter handle?
- 2 A. Fatayat Al Khilafah.
- 3 Q. The content of the Twitter postings that are referenced
- 4 in this affidavit and other postings on those Twitter handles,
- 5 was there any indication on these -- the various online
- 6 accounts that Ms. Thomas is alleged to have used that it was
- 7 in fact Ms. Thomas; any photographs for example?
- 8 A. Some of the facilities, Your Honor, there were
- 9 photographs of the defendant on some of those -- Twitter
- 10 handles and other online facilities.
- 11 Q. And just briefly, the defense attorney asked you about
- 12 the designation of ISIL in May 2014, isn't it accurate that
- that was simply adding the alias ISIL to an already existing
- 14 organization?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. And defense counsel also asked you about the
- 17 communications with the various coconspirators listed in the
- 18 complaint -- referencing particularly, CC One. Although,
- 19 there are specific dates referenced in this affidavit, were
- 20 there other communications that CC One continuing beyond these
- 21 dates?
- 22 A. There was.
- 23 Q. And were there other communications with CC Two
- 24 continuing beyond these dates?
- 25 A. There was.

- 1 Q. And with CC Three?
- 2 A. There was.
- 3 Q. Now, turning to the allegations regarding CC Two, I'll
- 4 point your attention to Paragraph 26. Defense counsel had
- 5 said to you isn't it true that none of CC Two's communications
- 6 with Ms. Thomas reference ISIL, but if you could please look
- 7 at Paragraph 26 and tell me, does that communication reference
- 8 ISIL specifically?
- 9 A. That's correct, Your Honor. I'm sorry I must have
- 10 misunderstood defense counsel's question, but number 26 does
- 11 specifically state ISIL.
- 12 Q. And is it fair to say that in your examination of Ms.
- 13 Thomas' communications she references her support for ISIL
- regularly and frequently between August 2013 and March 2015?
- MR. MCHUGH: I'm going to object, Your Honor.
- 16 It's a vague question in her communications. Can we be more
- 17 specific?
- 18 THE COURT: Can you be a little bit more
- 19 specific?
- MS. WILLIAMS: Certainly. In the communications
- 21 referenced in this affidavit.
- THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 23 BY MS. WILLIAMS
- 24 Q. And which terrorist group is in place in Rocca, Syria?
- 25 A. ISIS or ISIL.

- 1 Q. And of all the individuals living in Ms. Thomas' house
- 2 were the IP address resolved to who applied for a passport to
- 3 travel?
- 4 A. Keonna Thomas.
- 5 Q. Who applied for an e-Visa to Turkey?
- 6 A. Keonna Thomas.
- 7 Q. Did Ms. Thomas ever have a passport before February
- 8 2015?
- 9 A. She did not.
- 10 Q. Had Ms. Thomas ever attempted to travel overseas before
- 11 March 2015?
- 12 A. She did not.
- 13 Q. And in the time period referenced by defense counsel --
- in the days leading up to Ms. Thomas' arrest, I believe you
- 15 testified that you did not see her attempt to go to the
- 16 airport; is that correct?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 Q. Had agents already searched her home at that point?
- 19 A. We did, Your Honor.
- 20 Q. Had agents already seized her cell phone at that point?
- 21 A. We did, Your Honor.
- 22 Q. Had agents already seized her laptop at that point?
- 23 A. Yes, ma'am, we did.
- 24 Q. Thank you.
- MS. WILLIAMS: That's all I have.

Page 34 Mr. MCHUGH: Just one follow-up. 1 2 3 RECROSS-EXAMINATION 4 5 BY MR. MCHUGH: This, this question concerning CC Number Two, Paragraph 6 Q. 7 26. Yes, sir. 8 Α. 9 Where you say there was mention of ISIL? Q. 10 Yes, sir. Α. That's the -- a communication from CC Number Two to Ms. 11 Q. 12 Thomas; isn't that what you allege there? That's correct. 13 Α. 14 Q. Okay. So --15 I was just saying that it was mentioned, but --So, that my question to you was, was there anything by 16 Q. 17 Ms. Thomas stating that she wanted to join ISIL; is that 18 right? 19 Α. Yeah. Not on 20 -- not on --20 It's by this other person, CC Number Two, not Ms. 21 Thomas; right? 22 Α. Correct. 23 Okay. Just wanted to clarify that. That's all I have. Q. 24 THE COURT: Thank you. 25 Thank you, Your Honor. MS. WILLIAMS:

Page 35 THE COURT: After consideration of the testimony 1 2 presented here this afternoon, this court finds that the government as established probable cause that the defendant 3 committed the crime charged. 4 5 Namely, that she knowingly attempted to provide material support and resources, including personnel and 6 7 herself to a designated foreign terrorist organization to it, the Islamic state of Iraq and the Levant in violation of Title 8 18, U.S.C. § 2339A(b). 9 Ms. Williams, I understand the government is 10 11 seeking pretrial detention. 12 MS. WILLIAMS: We are, Your Honor. And I have submitted to the Court and defense counsel a motion for 13 pretrial detention. 14 15 May I ask the agent to step off the stand? 16 THE COURT: Yes, I'm sorry. Please. 17 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor. 18 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Your Honor. May I 19 approach the podium, Your Honor? 20 THE COURT: Yes, you may. 21 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. I know the Court is 22 very familiar now with the charges in this case. government has submitted a motion for pretrial detention, both 23 24 on the grounds that Ms. Thomas poses a very serious risk of 25 flight, as well as a substantial danger to the community.

- 1 As the Court knows, on March 26, 2015, Ms.
- 2 Thomas purchased a ticket on an international flight three
- 3 days later so that she could travel to Syria to join ISIL,
- 4 which is a foreign terrorist organization responsible for
- 5 videotaped beheadings and other atrocities.
- This was not a snap decision. It was not an
- 7 unknowing decision. Ms. Thomas had been planning this move,
- 8 this travel plan for more than a year. During this time, she
- 9 had pledged support for ISIL. Communicated with known violent
- 10 Jihadists about her plan to fight and martyr herself.
- 11 She reduced her online presence in an effort to
- 12 evade law enforcement and she researched indirect travel
- 13 routes to Syria away from the land of the Kafir, the
- 14 nonbelievers.
- 15 All of the evidence points, Your Honor, to the
- 16 indication that had the government not intervened with a
- 17 search warrant and seized evidence from Ms. Thomas' home, she
- 18 would've been on that flight on March 29, leaving behind two
- 19 young children with no warning to anyone.
- Your Honor, I point out that because Ms. Thomas
- 21 is charged with providing material sport to a designated
- 22 foreign terrorist organization, there is a rebuttable
- 23 presumption in this case that no condition or combination of
- 24 conditions would reasonably assure her appearance as required
- or the safety of the community and I submit that Ms. Thomas

- 1 cannot rebut this presumption.
- 2 As the Court already found there is probable
- 3 cause to believe that she violated 18 U.S.C. § 2339(b) and the
- 4 evidence in this case is strong, consisting of her own
- 5 personal communications traced to her by IP address and user
- 6 name and photographs on accounts and the fact that they were
- 7 found on her laptop under her bed. As well as her purchase of
- 8 an airline ticket and electronic visa in her true name.
- 9 The total maximum penalty that Ms. Thomas faces
- 10 and 15 years in prison, which is well exceeded by the likely
- 11 sentencing guideline range, basically capping her at 15 years,
- 12 that is a substantial amount of time in prison which gives Ms.
- 13 Thomas a substantial incentive to flee.
- In addition, Your Honor, I submit that her
- 15 community in Philadelphia, her ties to Philadelphia do not
- 16 counter that substantial incentive to flee. Her activities
- 17 prove that her familial ties here do not serve as a, an
- 18 adequate deterrent to her criminal behavior.
- 19 She's unemployed. She lives at home with a few
- 20 family members who appear to know nothing about her plan. She
- 21 apparently intended to leave her two young children behind
- 22 when she fled without warning. Therefore, these family ties
- 23 were insufficient to prevent her from abandoning her life in
- 24 the U.S. In comparison, her real community, the online
- 25 community of violent Jihadists was a strong and robust

- 1 community.
- 2 She communicated with them regularly about her
- 3 plans. Her plans to travel. Her desire to join ISIL and to
- 4 martyr herself and these are individuals located around the
- 5 world who would have the desire and the ability to help Ms.
- 6 Thomas flee Philadelphia and evade law enforcement.
- 7 There was -- there was significant discussion
- 8 involving Ms. Thomas about the need to avoid the eyes of law
- 9 enforcement to indicate that that's absolutely a concern.
- I also submit that Ms. Thomas poses a very
- 11 serious risk of danger to the community. Her offense involved
- 12 a desire for violence and personal martyrdom in support of a
- 13 violent terrorist organization which alone indicates that she
- 14 poses a serious risk of danger to the community.
- But in addition, Your Honor, I point out that
- 16 since the government executed its search warrant in this case,
- 17 a very close associate of Ms. Thomas has been making public
- 18 postings online expressing a desire to extend violence into
- 19 the U.S.
- 20 He posted on Twitter a call for martyrdom
- 21 operations here in the U.S. And after Ms. Thomas' arrest
- 22 posted on Twitter a statement indicating that no prison door
- 23 would be able to stand against the force of and then put on
- 24 their icons of a truck and an explosion.
- 25 Your Honor, I submit with all of these factors

Page 39 considered together, in light -- connected with the 1 2 substantial sentence that Ms. Thomas would face if convicted, 3 it's clear that no condition or combination of conditions would reasonably assure her presence as required in court and 4 5 the safety of the community. 6 Thank you. THE COURT: Thank you. Ms. Gaughan. 8 MS. GAUGHAN: Yes, Your Honor. Your Honor, I understand that the Court has rendered its decision and has 9 10 found that there is probable cause for these charges to 11 proceed to trial. However, this court is well aware that 12 those are allegations and that Ms. Thomas, of course, does have the presumption of innocence. If a -- an indictment is 13 in fact returned in this case, Ms. Thomas will be entering a 14 15 plea of not quilty. Unlike the government's position that Ms. Thomas 16 17 does not have significant ties to Philadelphia, the defense 18 would totally disagree with that. The defense is also 19 understand ing that there is a rebuttable presumption in this 20 case, due to the nature of the charge; that there are no set 21 of combinations or conditions that could ensure the safety of 22 the community as well as her -- his or her appearance. 23 However, as the Court is equally aware, that is a rebuttable

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position in this case to rebut that presumption.

presumption. And the defense would submit that we are in a

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Page 40 1 Ms. Thomas is a 30-year-old woman who has had 2 absolutely no contact whatsoever with the criminal justice 3 She has very strong and longstanding ties to Philadelphia. She was born and -- in Pittsburgh, but raised 4 5 her entire life and has spent her entire life in Philadelphia. She is the mother of two children, ages seven and nine, who 6 7 attend school very close to the location of where she resides. 8 Your Honor, at this time I would -- she does have extremely strong family support, many of whom are in the 9 courtroom in support of her today and if I could just call the 10 names of her family members and they could just rise so the 11 12 Court could recognize that they are here in support of their 13 family member. 14 THE COURT: That's fine. 15 MS. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Ms. Debbie Thomas. Your Honor, this is Ms. Keonna Thomas' mother. Ms. Julia 16 17 Thomas. That is Keonna Thomas' grandmother. Daniella 18 McCormick [ph], that is the cousin of Ms. Thomas, who's here 19 in support of her. Tonia Diggs [ph] and that is another 20 cousin who is here in support of her cousin Ms. Thomas, all of 21 whom are lifelong residents of the City of Philadelphia. I would call to -- I would call out Mr. Charles 22 23 Thomas to inquire as to whether he was able to arrive yet; no? 24 I had contact with Mr. Charles Thomas, it was -- who is Mr.

Keonna Thomas' uncle who is fully supportive of her, was

25

- 1 running late in traffic and was trying his very best to get
- 2 here, but wants the Court to know that he equally supports his
- 3 niece. He is a gentleman who is a working man. He's a truck
- 4 driver and took off today in order to come here in support of
- 5 his niece.
- 6 Ms. Keonna Thomas' mother is also employed as a
- 7 home hair -- healthcare aide. My client, Ms. Thomas, does
- 8 have two small children. It's true that she has been
- 9 unemployed for the past couple of years, however, she has a
- 10 history of employment. She did work previously as a home aide
- 11 as well.
- 12 She's actively and devoted to her children. She
- does take them to school. Her youngest daughter is in first
- 14 grade and her eldest daughter is in fourth grade.
- 15 Your Honor, the -- this -- these allegations
- 16 were pursuant to the complaint, alleged to have begun in --
- 17 the year 2013. In 2013, FBI agents went to the home of my
- 18 client, Ms. Thomas on North 10th Street, where she still
- 19 resides today and they had a conversation with her and they
- 20 subsequently left.
- 21 Ms. Thomas, after the conversation in no way
- 22 took any steps to leave that home to go away from her normal
- 23 activities in any way, shape, or form. She remained at that
- 24 residency, in fact Ms. Thomas has been at that same residence
- 25 for 10 years.

- 1 Now, the government is alleging that Ms.
- 2 Thomas -- this talk, this chatter this -- rhetoric increased
- 3 and the danger increased sometime in March. And that
- 4 necessitated or that -- had the agents, the FBI, who with were
- 5 already involved, I would submit to the Court -- and to obtain
- 6 a search warrant for Ms. Thomas' home. And they executed that
- 7 search warrant and as the agent indicated they took several
- 8 pieces of property which were computers and cell phones from
- 9 that property and they had forensic testing done.
- 10 Ms. Thomas was not arrested at that time.
- 11 Ms. Thomas was allowed to remain in the community according to
- 12 the agent, initially at that point, her activities were not
- 13 even monitored. So, the government themselves are alleging
- 14 that they did not feel Ms. Thomas was a threat to the very
- 15 community that she had lived in for 10 years.
- 16 There is allegation that there was the -- a
- 17 plane ticket for the date of March 29th, there was no evidence
- 18 whatsoever that Ms. Thomas made any steps at all to get onto
- 19 that plane or go to the airport.
- 20 Ms. Thomas was not arrested on March 29th.
- 21 Clearly, the government had forensic testing done on that
- 22 phone way before the date that Ms. Thomas was placed under
- 23 arrest. She was allowed to remain within the community for
- 24 approximately five additional days until April 3rd, because
- 25 the government, I would submit to Your Honor, did not think

- 1 that she was a threat, because if they did they would've taken
- 2 her off of the street and they didn't.
- 3 Ms. Thomas' actions equally show that she is not
- 4 a flight risk. In addition to her strong ties to the
- 5 community, she never at any time left her residence even in
- 6 the beginning of when the FBI agents came to her home in 2013,
- 7 after a search warrant was executed at her house, there's no
- 8 indication whatsoever that she did anything other than live
- 9 her life in her normal way.
- 10 She -- when she was arrested, Your Honor, she
- 11 was arrested at her home. In the early morning around 11:00
- 12 cooking breakfast for her two children. All indications are
- 13 that she is not a flight risk that there are conditions that
- 14 could be placed by this court to ensure the concerns of the
- 15 government and I'm sure the concerns of this court as to
- 16 safety and her appearance in court.
- 17 This court could order and my client's mother
- 18 wants her daughter to return to her home, this court has the
- 19 ability to place significant restraints on her liberty to have
- 20 her confined to her home, not just on in-home detention, Your
- 21 Honor, but on an actual GPS locater, because pretrial services
- 22 can do that. That you have those available. They could put a
- 23 GPS tracker where they would know every movement of -- that
- 24 this young lady makes.
- 25 The pretrial services could make -- go and

- 1 search the -- her home at any time that would be part of her
- 2 conditions of release and all of the electronics that access
- 3 the Internet. Her cell phone, her computer, were all seized
- 4 by the government.
- 5 There are no computers in the home in which Ms.
- 6 Thomas resides with her mother, her grandmother, her two
- 7 children, her younger brother, as well as an aunt. So, the
- 8 pretrial services, obviously, at any point and time could make
- 9 unannounced searches to ensure that nothing untoward was going
- 10 on within that household.
- 11 They would have a locater on her to follow her
- 12 every step. That would satisfy, Your Honor, I would submit
- and that would overcome the concerns for the dangers in this
- 14 aspect. And I believe again, the government's own actions in
- 15 this case have demonstrated that they did not feel that she
- 16 was a danger to the community and that she did not get
- 17 arrested until April 3rd when she was charged with this case.
- 18 For those reasons, Your Honor, I would submit
- 19 that the defense has in fact overcome the -- that presumption
- 20 and that there are conditions, astringent, astringent
- 21 conditions that this court could put and place on Ms. Thomas
- 22 to ensure the safety, continued safety of the community as
- 23 well as her experience for trial.
- 24 THE COURT: Thank you Ms. Gaughan.
- MS. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

Page 45 1 THE COURT: Ms. Williams. 2 Thank you. If I may just respond MS. WILLIAMS: briefly, Your Honor. Just to clarify, Your Honor, after the 3 search warrant was executed, there was 24 hour surveillance on 4 5 the outside of Ms. Thomas' home. In fact, her grandmother at one point banged on the door of the surveillance van. 6 So, the 7 folks in Ms. Thomas' home knew that they were being surveilled and that surveillance was solid on the outside of the home. 8 The agents could not see what was going on in the inside of 9 the home, but were watching the outside of the home to make 10 11 sure Ms. Thomas did not try to leave the country. 12 I also submit that there is a very big 13 difference in terms of someone's incentive to flee, between 14 having the government execute a search warrant and being 15 arrested on a criminal complaint, at which point Ms. Thomas now knows what the government knows. 16 17 So, her recognition of how serious these charges 18 are and the risks that she's facing has completely changed the 19 ball game and Ms. Thomas' incentive to flee has now multiplied 20 dramatically. 21 I submit that a GPS on Ms. Thomas would not 22 ensure the safety of her family inside the home with her, 23 including vulnerable children and also would simply serve to 24 notify the government after Ms. Thomas has fled which does not 25 protect the safety of the community from a sudden and violent

Page 46 act, such as the type Ms. Thomas was discussing online with 1 2 her associates. 3 I also submit to the Court that a search by pretrial services to see if anything untoward was going on in 4 5 her home would not protect the safety of Ms. Thomas' family or the community from a sudden violent act. For those reasons, 6 7 Your Honor, I submit that Ms. Thomas should be detained 8 pending trial. Thank you. THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Ms. Williams. 9 Having considered the arguments of counsel and based upon my 10 11 review of the pretrial services report, I find that no 12 condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the defendant's appearance as required or 13 the safety of the community. 14 15 Therefore, I order that the defendant be detained pending further court proceedings and that she be 16 17 remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal Service. 18 Thank you, Your Honor. MS. WILLIAMS: 19 Is there anything further, counsel? THE COURT: MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: No, Your Honor. 20 21 MR. MCHUGH: Nothing further. 22 23 24 25

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